

What's the perfect career direction for you?



Do you imagine working outdoors, installing and maintaining high-tech equipment? Or maybe you see yourself behind the scenes, programming and analyzing the systems that manage our 14,000 circuit miles of powerlines? Wherever your talents take you, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has the right opportunities for you. Discover the power within you at BPA and see how our Electrical Apprenticeship can set you on the right path to success.

Description

Our apprenticeships are paid, formal 3 to 4 year training programs consisting of steps of six months each. You must pass a review at the end of each step in order to progress to the next level. Training is a combination of progressively difficult on-the-job experiences, classroom study, correspondence courses, and homework. Apprentices will be promoted to Journeyman after successfully passing the final step review and be assigned to vacant Journeyman positions as they open up. Following are descriptions of the three Electrical Apprenticeship tracks we offer.

Power System Electrician Apprentice

Throughout your apprenticeship, you will work under the direct supervision of a Journeyman Power System Electrician or Electrician Foreman. You will be trained to perform a variety of installations, adjustments, maintenance, and repairs on electrical equipment. Maintenance tasks include routine inspection, modification, troubleshooting, and repair of electrical, hydraulic, mechanical, and pneumatic equipment. Apprentices work from sketches, drawings, blueprints, diagrams, and instruction books and are expected to gain knowledge of the various work processes with progressively difficult assignments.

High Voltage Lineman Apprentice

Throughout your apprenticeship, you will work under the direct supervision of a Journeyman Lineman or Lineman Foreman. You will be trained to maintain and construct high voltage lines on wood pole and steel tower structures. Training includes: access road maintenance procedures; care and inspection of tools, gear, and government vehicles; digging procedures; working with different types of wood structures and insulators; safety and first aid; BPA Safety Code; brush and weed control; danger tree identification and removal; setting, anchoring, and guying of pole structures; public relations; blueprint reading; purpose and installation of protective grounds; rigging for stringing and handling of conductor; steel tower erection; conductor handling and splicing; counterpoise and bonding; line phasing and transposition; procedures for locating line trouble; types of conductor and factors affecting conductor size; hot line maintenance procedures; insulator testing and voltage gradients; protective tagging and clearances; recognition and cure of corona and radio interference; results of lightning damage and correct lightning protection.

Substation Operator Apprentice

Apprentices are trained under the direction of a Chief Substation Operator. Training tasks include: review of security and station logs; inspection of automatic logging devices, event recorders, and fault locators for proper operation; inspection of indication and tags on control panels; check for adherence to station voltage schedule and compliance with operating limits on equipment; inspect all components in switchyard and out-buildings; check security of property perimeter; check for hazardous conditions; ascertain scheduled switching; plan and perform delegated switching; operate various communication systems; keep dispatchers informed of

all pertinent information and notify appropriate officials in case of a power system emergency; read meters, instruments, gauges and record for billing purposes; read and analyze substation drawings; lead and instruct others as assigned; and perform containment/cleanup measures to protect the environment.

Qualifications

Candidates must be physically and mentally able to efficiently perform the duties of the position. Since most work will be performed outside in all weather conditions and around various types of energized equipment, apprentices must meet some or all of the special conditions for employment outlined below:

- If exposed to health hazards, you must have periodic health examinations as prescribed by competent medical authority at BPA expense. Hazards include working in close proximity to substances such as mercury, acids, solvents or PCBs.
- Become familiar and follow the safety practices outlined in the BPA Accident Prevention Manual
- Establish a residence in accordance with negotiated requirements that is within one hour or less commuting time under normal weather and road conditions.
- Obtain a Restricted Electrical Workers' Permit within the first two weeks of your start date and maintain thereafter for the duration of the apprenticeship program.
- Obtain a valid commercial driver's license from the state of your residence which contains all endorsements that are required to operate substation maintenance and construction equipment.
- Possess a U.S. Motor Vehicle Operator Authorization or obtain within 30 days after appointment (traffic citations indicating poor driving habits may disqualify applicants).
- Become certified on aerial lift equipment or other equipment assigned to operate.
- Complete First Aid training and obtain a valid First Aid card and CPR certification within the first month of employment and maintain continuously thereafter.
- Be subject for emergency work at any time.
- Satisfactory completion of each step and associated related training is required for advancement to the next step.

BPA has been powering people and great careers since 1937. With our rich history, dedication to service and ever-expanding community, we're working together, re-defining what it means to be a leader. If you are ready to be part of history in the making, join us today.

How to Apply

Our apprentice announcements are open during the fall of each year and can be accessed online at www.bpa.gov or by calling toll-free **1-877-WRK-4BPA (1-877-975-4272)**. For more information on BPA's Apprenticeship Programs please visit our career link at www.bpa.gov or direct your questions to resumes@bpa.gov. As an Equal Opportunity Employer, BPA combines diverse minds in a single, powerful body. US citizenship required.

